



MEMORANDUM
APRIL 10, 2004

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: DAVID MERRITT

RE: 2004 GRANT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The grant notification process this past year decreased the number of requests from last year, with a total requests from 44 project proponents for \$376,309.87. However, this continues to be a very competitive process. In the 2004 budget, as in the 2003 Budget, the board again appropriated \$150,000. In 1999, the board set aside \$15,000 of the total grants amount appropriated for emergency grant requests, to be able to deal with emergency requests such as the request which came from the Leroux Creek Water Users in 1998 as a result of the Carl Smith Dam failure. However, we have not has a similar request since that time. We continue to have a certain amount of “undercontracting”, i.e., some entities, for whatever reason, being unable to undertake the project for which they were awarded the grant. It remained in the capital fund, unexpended, and thus increases the amount which may be awarded in subsequent years.

A review of the request and funding history is as follows:

HISTORY OF AMOUNT AWARDED

YEAR	# APPLY	# AWARDED	\$ REQUEST	\$ AWARD	\$ CONTRACT
1998	11	8	\$121,368	\$80,118	\$80,118
1999	17	14	\$180,381	\$137,371	\$119,114
2000	29	21	\$275,922	\$177,335	\$162,283
2001	35	16	\$313,396	\$150,833	\$150,833
2002	59	17	\$507,656	\$173,529	\$160,987
2003	64	14	\$663,342	\$157,800	\$157,800
2004	42		\$376,309		

YEAR 2004 GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS:

A brief description of the projects is as follows:

PROJECT NAME	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED
1. West Divide Ditch Siphon Replacement Project Improve the existing water supply system, promote water use efficiency, reduce sediment and improve instream water quality.	\$9,489.71	\$3,163.00
2. Monitor Ditch Diversion Reconstruction Improvement of an existing water supply system, improvement of instream water quality, measures which promote water use efficiency, sediment reduction, implementation of watershed management actions.	\$89,068.00	\$15,000.00
3. Rivendell Farm Drip Irrigation Project This project will increase the water efficiency on my farm. Rather than flooding the crop rows, drip tape and emitters will be used to provide irrigation water directly to the plant. The drip irrigation system I will install will promote conservation and use of the water I receive for my crops.	\$16,114.00	\$6,200.00
4. McIntyre Ranch Project #1 Improve the existing water usage by pivot sprinkler, instead of flood irrigation. It will reduce erosion and silting into the Yampa River, also, it will help fertilize more efficiently , cut labor costs. Use less water and do a better job of irrigating.	\$39,710.77	\$10,942.15
5. Water Storage Tank Replacement/Upgrade The purpose of this project was to provide the block 2, subdivision lots with fire protection, and to provide adequate water storage for domestic use. This was the second phase of an ongoing project to up grade the water system. The water company completed the first phase in 1997 by replacing all the water company service lines with 6" PVC and installing four fire hydrants at a cost of \$85,000.00.	\$134,546.97	\$15,000.00
6. Rivendell Farm Tamarisk & Watershed Management The 2004 Water Grant funds will be used to restore approximately 17,000 sq. ft. of Gunnison River Bank located on the north property line of Rivendell Farm near Austin, CO.	\$9,396.00	\$4,698.00
7. Tamarisk Removal This project is a continuation of our ongoing program to eradication Tamarisk on owned property along the Colorado River in Grand Junction, CO. Grand Valley Audubon Society has successfully removed this noxious tree from approximately fifteen acres on our properties along the 600 block of Dike Road. Using continuous follow-up application of Garlon4 we have been able to almost completely eradicate this plant from our 605 Dike Road property.	\$6,440.00	\$3,000.00
8. Neilson Pump Line Ditch Intake Structure Improvements Improvement of an existing water supply system, improvement of in stream water quality, measures which promote water use efficiency, and sediment reduction.	\$75,425.00	\$15,000.00
9. Clifton Sanitation District #2 Tamarisk Implement Tamarisk control measures and promote water use efficiency.	\$9,274.45	\$4,600.00
10. Raw Water Structure Rehabilitation Improvement of an Existing Water Supply System.	\$67,658.00	\$15,000.00

11. Dry Creek Transfer Ditch Pipeline	\$102,457.00	\$15,000.00
The Dry Creek Transfer Ditch is used to transport our two filling decrees to the Fruitgrowers Reservoir, a Bureau of Reclamation Project, for which OCID has management contract. During the fill period in 2003 a serious leak developed in the bank of this ditch in a stretch that has been subject to slide damage before.		
12. Fratzke Property	\$6,090.00	\$3,900.00
This project is designed to improve an antiquated and inefficient irrigation system. Since this ditch also feeds three (3) other properties, the benefits will be realized down stream as well. This is important given the current drought conditions and the increased demand on water resources due to population increases.		
13. Portable Drip Irrigation Project	\$25,000.00	\$8,000.00
To develop a method whereby local onion growers in the Uncompahgre Valley can switch from a water intensive furrow irrigation system to a water saving., sediment and salt reducing system. The new system would involve drip irrigation.		
14. Disappointment Valley Tamarisk Removal	\$17,226.00	\$6,444.00
Not accepted, as it was out of our district.		
15. Inventory of Tamarisk & Russian-olive infestation	\$57,800.00	\$13,000.00
Based on average water use values for tamarisk and the native plant species it has replaced, a general estimate of the non-beneficial consumption of water by tamarisk throughout Colorado is approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water per year. These values are above and beyond what the native vegetation would have consumed. Tamarisk also seriously impacts wildlife habitat, increases the risk of fire, changes stream structure, and reduces the enjoyment of river systems by the public.		
16. Lewis Wash Tamarisk Removal Project	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
The purpose of this project is to provide ongoing Tamarisk control in Mesa County and to discourage illegal dumping.		
17. Tri-County/Ridgway Water Supply Feasibility Study	\$50,000.00	\$13,000.00
To develop a reliable and sustainable water supply and treatment facility for current customers and for the future growth of both the Town of Ridgway and the Tri-County WCD.		
18. Mesa Cortina Tank Level/Control RF Data Telemetry System	\$19,200.00	\$6,960.00
Improvement of Existing Water Supply		
19. "Xeriscape Demonstration Garden"	\$102,048.00	\$15,000.00
Measures which promote water use efficiency.		
20. Finely Mesa pump ground	\$7,000.00	\$3,500.00
Funding for eight and ten inch gated pipe, and a diversion box, to better utilize water pumped form the Colorado River.		
21. Tamarisk Removal Project	\$15,000.00	\$6,000.00
This project is designed to remove approximately 20 acres of tamarisk from the banks of the Uncompahgre River on a ranch near Olathe. After talking with a vegetation management specialist, it has been determined that cut stump and basal treatment would be done to prevent destroying desirable vegetation. The majority of the tamarisk is growing in with willows and cottonwood trees.		
22. Kurt & Tammy Grimm Property Pumps Underground Irrigation	\$4,622.93	\$2,311.93
Development of new water supply measures which promote water use efficiency.		
23. Louis-Reynolds Ditch Siphon Improvement	\$3,415.74	\$1,700.00
The siphon represents the most efficient way for the project sponsor to access his water from the ditch-the old elbow of the ditch has not been maintained for many years, so rehabilitating it rather than updating the siphon would have		

been a massive project that would have allowed evaporation and leakage losses, so that was not a reasonable solution to the problem at hand.

24. Tamarisk removal & demonstration on Johnson property **\$95,000.00** **\$15,000.00**
Not accepted as it was out of the District.

25. Little Snake River Irrigation Diversion Improvement **\$52,000.00** **\$13,400.00**
Reach encompasses approximately 20 miles of the Little Snake River from Routt County 129 bridge downstream to Slater, CO. Private landowners within this reach have allied themselves to form a group (titled Little Snake River Valley River Restoration & Soil Rehabilitation) with a three member advisory committee, in order to collectively improve their irrigation diversion, control aggressive bank erosion and land loss and generally improve the health of the river corridor.

26. Canal Leakage & Seepage Canal Liner Project **\$47,00.00** **\$15,000.00**
The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, UVWUA has been in existence since 1909. The UVWUA operates the Gunnison Tunnel and the Uncompahgre Project under the Bureau of Reclamation. UVWUA is the largest manager of water in the Uncompahgre Valley with over 80,000 acres of assessed lands and 3,100 paying members. We also deliver water to the City of Montrose and Project 7 through Tri County WCD.

27. Kobe Pipeline Project **\$773,080.00** **\$15,000.00**
Development of a new water supply.

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29. Fraser River Restoration-Granby Project **\$106,500.00** **\$15,000.00**
The Town of Granby, Colorado is currently experiencing tremendous growth. The recent development of Grand Elk Ranch and Club, and the annexation of SolVista Ski and Golf, have made Granby one of the fastest growing towns in the State of Colorado.

30. Fire Mountain Canal Lining **\$19,080.74** **\$6,816.10**
Improvement of and existing water supply system. Measures which promote water use efficiency.

31. Irrigation Water Usage Reduction **\$7,838.40** **\$3,919.20**
Promote water use efficiency by replacing existing simple grass vegetation with drought tolerant shrubs, planted with the intent of increased wildlife usage as nesting, browsing and winter cover areas as well as allowing buffer zones near our seasonal food plots. This new vegetation would also be very competitive against noxious weeds prevalent in the valley.

32. Goose Pasture Tarn Dam Service Spillway Repairs **\$291,950.00** **\$15,000.00**
Repair voids under 40 year old service spillway, anchor spillway, overlay spillway.

33. Blue River Lake Feasibility & Engineering Planning **\$75,380.00** **\$15,000.00**
We understand that the purpose of this reconnaissance-level engineering study is to evaluate the general feasibility of developing a water storage facility at the site and to support decisions related to pursuing additional and more detailed evaluations and other planning efforts by the Town.

34. Swan River Reconnaissance Level Engineering **\$5,520.00** **\$2,760.00**
Look at the feasibility of a 1000 af reservoir on the Swan River. Prepare reconnaissance-level designs, identify primary issues that may significantly impact project development, and develop an opinion of probable construction cost.

35. Spaulding Peak Treatment Plant **\$1,292.000** **\$15,000.00**
Benefits will be improved water quality, more efficient use of raw water, and assurance that the Association can meet the future drinking water demand in its service area. This project will illustrate the utility of membrane

filtration as the best technology for small domestic systems which need or want to provide their own water treatment.

36. Stream Habitat Assessment for the Roaring Fork Watershed **\$321,213.00** **\$10,000.00**

This stream health initiative is designed to be a pilot project to be duplicated (with lessons learned) in the other watersheds within the ten county RC&D Area of Northwest Colorado. The ultimate goal we are working toward is restoration of various degraded stream segments and conservation of pristine areas to provide adequate water quality, quantity, wildlife habitat, and recreation values for future generations of our ever-increasingly populated watersheds.

37. Headgate 83 Ditch Inc. Lateral Improvement Project **\$33,632.00** **\$15,000.00**

Headgate 83 on the Silt Water Conservancy District's supply system serves 11 water rights owners and 76 acres of land. It is an antiquated, open-ditch system which is in need of significant reconstruction to function adequately. The users would like to take this opportunity to upgrade the system to improve efficiency and conserve water rather than rebuild the existing inefficient system and continue to experience recurring problems and expenses.

38. Water Distribution/Looping & Fire Protection Upgrade **\$20,000.00** **\$15,000.00**

The looping will tie the system together and allow unencumbered water flows through out the system. This involves installing 250 feet of 6 inch water main with valves, and two new fire hydrants at the junction.

39. Sylvan Outlet Ditch Project **\$79,317.98** **\$15,000.00**

This system works extremely well, and not only addresses the erosion and sediment issues, is more efficient, it also addressed the overall safety concerns with ourselves and the adjacent land owners.

40. Phase II-Sylvan/Brinker Pipe Project **\$22,000.00** **\$7,400.00**

This project will be a part of the overall long term water efficiency plan and improvement of an existing water system. Each step is an integral part of a much larger picture.

41. Measurement Systems Project **\$9,700.00** **\$4,800.00**

This project will greatly improve our knowledge of how well our other projects are working. As well as aid our water commissioners and help us plan for the future.

42. Rogers Mesa Water Distribution Association **\$11,692.53** **\$5,338.50**

Improve existing water supply system, replace or retro fit 11 boxes improve water use efficiency spray willows on 3+/- miles of distribution right of way.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: On March 2, 2004, after individually reviewing and rating all the grant applications, the staff committee, consisting of Kirstin McMillan, Peter Roessman, David Kanzer, Ray Tenney and myself met to rank and recommend the grant applications. Martha Moore and Rob Streit were also involved in the grant discussions. The following applications were recommended:

Tamarisk Coalition: Tim Carlson	Inventory of Tamarisk & Russian Olive Infestation
Montrose Botanical Society: John Elo	Xeriscape Demonstration Garden @ Montrose Botanical Gardens
Eagle County: Phillip M. Bowman	Neilson Pump Line Ditch Intake Structure Improvements
Clifton Sanitation District #2: Brian Woods	Tamarisk Control Measures & Water Use Efficiency Project
Brit C. McLin	Louis-Reynolds Ditch Siphon Improvement
Rangely Raw Water Users Group: Lance Stewart	Raw Water Structure Rehabilitation
Kurt and Tammy Grimm	Grimm Property: Pumps Underground Irrigation
Shavano Conservation District: John E. Murray	Portable Drip Irrigation Project
Grand Valley Audubon Society: Robert Wilson	Tamarisk Removal
Orchard City Irrigation District: Thomas Huerkamp	Dry Creek Transfer Ditch Pipeline & Circle Ditch Headgate
West Divide Ditch: Wayne McCray	West Divide Ditch Siphon Replacement Project
North Fork River Improvement Association (NFRIA): Jeff Crane	Monitor Ditch Diversion Reconstruction
Colorado Big Country RC&D: Willa Holgate	Stream Habitat Assessment for the Roaring Fork Watershed
Rogers Mesa Water Distribution Association: Dan Robinson	Water Supply System & Use Efficiency Improvements
Uncompahgre Valley WUA: Marc Catlin	Canal Leakage & Seepage Canal Liner Project
Upper Surface Creek Domestic WUA: Dan Hawkins	Spaulding Peak Treatment Plant

This resulted in a total of 16 projects being recommended, for a total amount of \$153,513. The maximum grant amount was the full amount authorized, \$15,000, the minimum was \$1,700, and the average amount was \$9,234. A spreadsheet containing general information on all the grants submitted is attached to this memo. There were four projects dealing with Tamarisk assessment or control, one stream habitat assessment, one stream rehabilitation project, two projects dealing with water supply system improvements and a number of irrigation system improvement projects. The projects were fairly well distributed throughout the District, although Delta County did seem to do rather well this year.

On March 17, 2004, the Executive Committee met and reviewed the staff recommendations. After a discussion of the projects and the staff recommendations, the Executive Committee recommended that the District not fund two studies, the Tamarisk Coalition's Inventory, and the Roaring Fork Habitat Assessment proposed by Big Country RC&D. This allowed the next two projects to come to the funding list. These projects are:

CG04039	Williams Peak Ranch: Francine Acord	Sylvan Outlet Ditch Project
CG04021	Spann Ranches: Lee Spann	Tamarisk Removal Project

This would bring the total amount of funded projects for 2004 to \$147,913. The next ranked project was:

CG04037	Headgate 83 Ditch, Inc: Steve Dahmer	Lateral Improvement Project
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Funding this project would add \$9,726 to the projects funded, bringing the total funded the \$157,639, if the Board so chose. This would essentially be the reappropriation of funds that were awarded in 2002, but due to project problems, were returned to the District in 2003.

We will have copies of the complete applications available for review at the meeting. If any Board member is particularly interested in any specific application, or even seeing all of the applications from their county, please feel free to give me a call.